

ESTABLISHED IN 1861

# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

OLDEST BEE PAPER IN AMERICA

GEORGE W. YORK,  
Editor.

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY—  
—TO BEE-CULTURE.

Weekly, \$1.00 a Year.  
Sample Free.

VOL. XXXI. CHICAGO, ILL., JANUARY 19, 1893. NO. 3.



**Pennsylvania** bee-keepers expect to make a good exhibit at the World's Fair this year. Read their advertisement on page 68 of this number of the BEE JOURNAL.

**Please Don't** send to us for bee-keepers' supplies. We do not deal in them. If in need of anything for the apiary *except a good bee-paper*, just send for the catalogues of some of our advertisers. They will be glad to fit you out, and do it well.

**The Apiarian Exhibit** of the State of Illinois at the Columbian Exposition this year may be all right yet. Hon. J. M. Hambaugh and Mr. Jas. A. Stone, respectively President and Secretary of our State Bee-Keepers' Association, were to meet, on Jan. 10th, a committee from the Illinois State Horticultural Society, for the purpose of arranging to join forces to urge the Legislature for an appropriation for the exhibit of both societies at the World's Fair. We feel almost certain that the Legislature will grant their very just requests.

### That Sugar-Honey Fraud.—

Although we have positively refused to permit a discussion of the subject of sugar-honey production in the BEE JOURNAL, yet owing to the great number of condemnatory letters we are receiving, we have decided to say something more about it, and allow our correspondents to express themselves on the only side of the subject—for there is but *one* side—and that is the one of uncompromising opposition and condemnation of even the slightest suggestion of feeding sugar to produce honey.

We do not believe so much in heaping criticism upon the careless few who have so foolishly helped on the nefarious scheme of sugar-honey production, but we do think that we cannot come down too hard upon the idea itself. And if this lollipop business should be persisted in, we are ready to throw against it, and upon it, all the power and force that the old AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL may be able to wield.

The very suggestion of the production and sale of comb honey from feeding cane-sugar is the most prodigious wrong against the honorable pursuit of bee-keeping ever perpetrated; and that such ideas should be advanced and defended by persons *within* the ranks of honey-producers themselves, is entirely beyond the comprehension of sane mortals. Why, the notorious Wiley fable is indeed a "pleasantry" compared to the flood-gate of ruination that has been opened

by those who have so foolishly advised bee-keepers to adulterate their honey by compelling the bees to store sugar! If this be "advanced bee-culture," the less bee-keepers and all others have of it, the better for them and the whole world.

We present here some of the many letters received in reference to the subject, which we desire should be read very carefully. The first was not intended for publication, so we omit the writer's name and address. We feel certain he will not object to having it appear thus:

FRIEND YORK:—When I received the last BEE JOURNAL, and saw the stand you took on the sugar-honey question, I felt like shouting "Good boy!"

Many of my idols in apiculture have fallen in the past year—those whose judgment I most relied upon. Let them now discuss the selling of glucose for sugar, cotton-seed oil for lard, suet for butter, and uphold it, too. They might also include counterfeiting money—it is as good as genuine until discovered to be bogus. All are equally honest, I think.

When I saw on page 849 of the BEE JOURNAL for Dec. 29th, the stand you and Mr. Newman took, I could not help writing and saying, "Shake!" All honor to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL!

Minnesota, Dec. 31, 1892.

FRIEND YORK:—I wish to commend your course in the sugar-honey discussion. I can see no good result whatever from the discussion. Its principal use has been to give hints to would-be imitation-honey producers.

The Devil does not need any aid. Can we not profit by the experience of the dairy people, in their fight with oleomargarine, etc.?

Very respectfully,

Tiffin, O.

J. F. MOORE.

FRIEND YORK:—I notice that you are ignoring the sugar-honey discussion. It is a great surprise to me that any of our leading bee-keepers should favor such a business, and try to prove its advantages. It would be the death-knell to the bee-keeping interest of this country.

Respectfully,

N. P. ASPINWALL.

Harrison, Minn.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—I beg to express my satisfaction at the course taken by the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL in refer-

ence to that very imprudent, ill-advised discussion of the "sugar-honey" question. The AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, since I have known it, has always been the uncompromising foe of all forms of adulteration, and has done invaluable work toward its suppression. I regard the proposed "sugar-honey" as one of the worst forms of adulteration—worst, because it emanates from the producers themselves.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., Jan. 2, 1893.

MR. EDITOR:—What use is there to fight adulteration of honey when professors and bee-paper men teach their constituents how to adulterate, and tell us that sugar is honey after passing through a bee's honey-sac? This is the most contemptible act that honest bee-keepers have ever seen, or heard of. All adulteration together, of honey, so far, has not done as much damage, or made and created as much suspicion.

The newspapers already have gotten hold of it. A lawyer (an old acquaintance), to whom I have sold honey for many years, said to me the other day, "How much sugar have you sold me all these years?" I asked him where he read about it? "Ha! in one of my newspapers," he replied. "I am going to make my own honey after this."

Then he explained to me that sugar was honey; that a certain professor and his students had made experiments, and found that no difference could be noted, etc. Now, how are we going to stop the slanderous talk of that professor and that bee-paper man? I have almost lost confidence in men, and about decided to keep bees without literature—so as to keep cool and silent, and not get excited when we have to see such lies in our bee-papers. The only reason I subscribe for a few bee-periodicals this year is, that they are not *all* on that side, and I felt good when I read your editorial and noted your stand-point on this senseless act.

Every experienced bee-keeper knows that sugar cannot be changed to honey by the bees. It is sugar first, and sugar last. It is a shame for learned men to be so stupid—yes, we may say dishonest. I may be a little harsh, but I cannot help it.

I am afraid our industry has received a blow from which it will not recover for many years, by this sugar-honey swindle. Those who have advocated the thing, should know better than to threaten the destruction of honest bee-keepers and honey-producers. What

good will a "Pure Food Bill" do under these circumstances? Ridiculous!

Yours very truly,

C. THEILMANN.

Theilmanton, Minn., Jan. 2, 1893.

We shouldn't wonder if your blood began to "boil" before you half finished reading the foregoing letters. Ours did; and then we felt sorry for those who had been advocating the practice, and who were so short-sighted and careless; for, personally, we have respected them so highly, and long ago tried to show at least one of them the error of his way in this matter. We endeavored to make clear to him the folly and great harm of the thing, though we felt all the time that he should know better. We think they all know better *now*, and no mistake about it, either!

Although having said what we have above, we want to say right here, that we do not believe that any one of those who have championed this unfortunate course *intended* to injure the business of honey-production; but the evil has been done, nevertheless, and nothing that they can do now, can possibly prevent the untold injury that must inevitably result to the industry of bee-culture. How much better it would have been to have "kept in the middle of the road," than to have permitted themselves to be "switched off" on such a dangerous "side-track."

But what good to lock the stable *after* the horse is stolen? Why cry over spilt-milk? The only thing that can be done now is to try to counteract the evil effects of the whole pernicious affair, and try to "grin" while bearing the consequences, which cannot help being so universally disastrous to the pursuit of bee-keeping.

Let all sincere and honest honey-producers stand together, and victory over all such slanders—and even over the Devil himself—will yet be theirs.

After the foregoing was in type, we handed a proof of it to the General Manager of the Union, who writes thus:

FRIEND YORK:—I have read the proof you gave me, and most fully endorse the positions taken by you and your correspondents upon the sugar-honey question.

The degradation brought upon honey-producers by this "sugar-honey" abomination, is almost unbearable. The discussion of the subject is *inexcusable*, since it was closed last spring by the frowns of apiarists. To revive it at this time is a *crime* as well as a *blunder*. If it is right to feed sugar and compel the bees to store it in combs in poor seasons, why is it not right all the time? It can't be right. It is a fraud practiced upon the bees; it would compel the bee-keeper to be dishonest, and it would be a dishonorable, fraudulent trick played upon consumers.

One heresy leads to another. The argument is: If bees *make* honey, and it is partly-digested nectar—then that nectar may be sugar or glucose at will! But that is all bosh! We all know that it is no such thing! It is precisely the same after having been stored that it was before, and the bees neither digest nor *make* it into honey.

As Manager of the Bee-Keepers' Union, I have received a perfect shower of such letters as those you have printed. The instigators of this nefarious swindle have "sown to the wind," and are now "reaping the whirlwind."

Just think of a person asking to have the Constitution of the Union amended so as to fight adulteration, and within a month to be advising bee-keepers to adulterate their honey with sugar! It is monstrous for him to say: "I have no doubt that sugar-syrup honey will be produced largely next year.....I have no fear of a market." Away with such lollipop bosh!

If the National Bee-Keepers' Union is to prosecute adulterators, and I have anything to do with it, its most energetic work shall be to prosecute to the full extent of the law, any who may *dare* to offer for sale as honey any of that sugar-syrup swindle.

Consumers must not be trifled with. Their butter must be made from pure cow's milk, and their honey must be pure nectar from the flowers! "Sugar-syrup" must be sold under that name, not honey—just as the law requires oleomargarine to be sold under its proper name—not butter! With the Paddock "Pure Food Bill" as a United States law, these and all other degrading swindles shall "bite the dust."

THOMAS G. NEWMAN.

Chicago, Ills., Jan. 13, 1893.

**Bee-Keepers' Union.**—Again we wish to call the attention of our readers to that "Voting Blank" on page 4 of the BEE JOURNAL for Jan. 5th. Cut out that sheet, fill up all the blanks, and then send it to Mr. Newman, as he there directs.

We have nothing to say as to whom you should vote for, but if you have not already voted, we would like to call your attention to the following paragraph taken from *Gleanings* for Jan. 1st, which we fully endorse:

Without wishing to disparage the capacity of Mr. James Heddon, the President, we would suggest that, as he is not of the legal fraternity, the Hon. R. L. Taylor, a good lawyer and bee-keeper, be elected in his place. While Mr. Newman is possessed of good legal knowledge, it will be of great advantage to him to be in direct consultation with the next chief officer of the Union.

#### Keeping Italian Bees Pure.

—A subscriber sends in this question for reply:

How can I keep Italian bees pure when my neighbors have black bees within a half mile of me, and won't sell them? S. C.

You probably cannot keep them pure, but by constantly weeding out objectionable queens, and occasionally introducing a pure Italian queen and rearing your queens from her, you will get along as well as many others.

**Transferring Bees.**—A correspondent in South Carolina asks the following question:

What is the best time to move bees from old box-hives to frame hives? I have 17 colonies in old boxes, which I want to move as soon as it can be done. I also have 8 in frame hives, that I can help the others with. R. C. F.

The stereotyped answer to the question when best to transfer bees, is at the time of fruit bloom. The reason for that is, that at the time of fruit bloom the combs are as nearly empty as at any time in the year when they are gather-

ing honey. The chances for danger from robbers are very much diminished if the transferring is done at a time when the bees are working in the fields, and robbers are not on hand. The lighter the combs are, the more easily they are kept in place until the bees fasten them in.

There is, however, a plan given by James Heddon, that is on the whole better. Wait until the first swarm issues, and hive it in a movable-comb hive. Then on the 21st day after the swarm issues, the last worker brood will be hatched out, and you can transfer with no brood in the way, except some that is very young.



#### HON. EUGENE SECOR.

Few men have been so constantly in public life, and in so many different positions, as has Hon. Eugene Secor, of Forest City, Iowa, whose name is so well known to the readers of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. His literary productions, both of prose and poetry, are familiar to all. He has very appropriately been called the "poet laureate" of apiculture. For years he has been among those who have generously undertaken to reply to the queries propounded for publication in this paper, and as to how well he has succeeded in "cracking" the "nuts," we need only to point to the printed record.

Mr. Secor was born on May 13, 1841, and was brought up on a farm, near Peekskill, N. Y., being one of eleven children, all of whom lived to manhood and womanhood. He attended the public school in winter, and worked on his father's farm in summer.

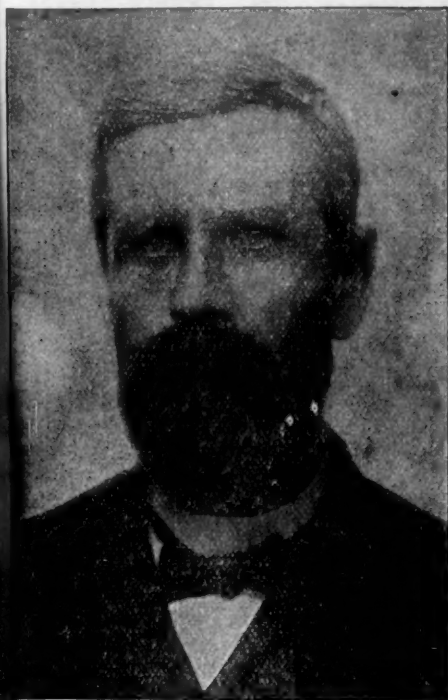
At the age of 21 he went to Iowa, borrowing the necessary money of an older brother who was already located in the West. He went to work at what-

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ever he could find to do; learned the mason trade—worked at plastering and bricklaying summers and taught winters.

In 1864, he entered Cornell College in Iowa, but owing to the fact that his brother David wanted to take a hand in the "late unpleasantness"—(he being Treasurer and Recorder of Winnebago county, and Postmaster of Forest City) he left school to take charge, as deputy, of his brother's business, which position he held for two years.



**EUGENE SECOR.**

In 1866, he married Millie M. Spencer, a native of Ohio, who still lives to charm and bless her beloved. They have four children living, and six have crossed to the other shore, awaiting the "meeting" and the "greeting" of the "loved ones" left behind.

In 1867, Mr. S. was appointed Deputy Clerk of the District Court, and in 1868 was elected to that office, which he held for six years, being elected the last term without opposition. Believing in rotation in office, he refused to run for a fourth term. In 1875 he was elected County Auditor, and was re-elected two years later without opposition.

He was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Court to complete the incorporation of Forest City; was elected its first Mayor, and re-elected three consecutive times, being the only one, up to the present time, who has held the office four terms. He was a member of the Town Council up to 1890, and has been a member of the city school board; is a member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College, and one of the Executive Committee; also trustee of the Iowa Agricultural College—the latter Board being elected by the State Legislature.

Mr. Secor is a life member of the Northern Iowa Horticultural Society; has also been Director, Vice-President and President, and has charge of one of its experiment stations. He helped to organize the Winnebago County Agricultural Society, and was its first President for two years; is a member of the Iowa Fine Stock Breeders' Association, and President of the State Bee-Keepers' Society. He has just retired from a year's Presidency of the North-American Bee-Keepers' Association, whose last meeting was held in Washington, D. C., on Dec. 27th, 28th and 29th, 1892, and a report of which is begun on page 79 of this issue of the BEE JOURNAL.

In politics, Mr. Secor is a Republican. He has been a delegate to many State and District conventions; was one of the delegates from Iowa to the last National Republican Convention that met in Minneapolis last summer.

In religion he is a Methodist, but not sectarian; and has been a trustee in his local society since its organization. He was honored as a delegate to the last General Conference of the church of his choice, in May, 1892, at Omaha. He is also President of the County Bible Society, which is interdenominational.

Owing to various public and private enterprises which occupy so much of his time, Mr. Secor has never attempted to build up a large apiary. His chief study is to keep the number of colonies within the possibilities of personal supervision and recreative enjoyment. But they have always paid. He doesn't run after new-fangled inventions because they are new, nor after new races of bees because they are widely advertised. He believes in the injunction, "Prove all things: hold fast that which is good."

At different times he has had charge of the apian department in various agricultural periodicals. His writings are always instructive, and are read with a satisfaction and interest rarely met with in these latter days. G. W. Y.



CONDUCTED BY

**Mrs. Jennie Atchley,**

GREENVILLE, TEXAS.

**Bees and Red Clover.**

On page 789 (Dec. 15, 1892) is a short item with the above title. The writer seems to convey the idea that bees never get honey of any consequence from red clover. My experience is quite different.

About the year 1875, I lived at the head farm of Hickory Valley, White county, Tenn. This valley was then noted by its extensive red clover fields. One day I noticed that the bees began to store honey very fast, and on going out to look I found they were working wholly on red clover. Any kind of bees, blacks, hybrids, Italians and bumble bees were all working just as though it was a life-and-death case, and it was not the dwarfed or imperfect blossoms that they were working on, either, but it was the vast clover fields "mumming" all over with bees. The bees worked on it for weeks, and filled their hives, and some of the strongest colonies filled two supers each.

I do not claim that bees get honey from red clover every year, and under all circumstances, but I do know that they get honey from red clover, and lots of it, too. Nor do I believe that bees visit flowers just because they see them. My experience is that when you see bees working on flowers of any kind, you may know they are getting a little taste of honey at the least. Even any flower that bees get pollen from furnishes more or less honey, as the pollen is a little sweet.

I think you might waste your life in making cast-iron flowers, and placing them in the field, without the satisfaction of seeing a single bee alight on one of them, unless you put some honey on them. Bees are attracted to flowers by scent—it is the sweet fragrance or the smell of honey in the blossoms that

stops the bee as she passes by. This sweet substance is placed in the flower by nature on purpose to attract the bees, and the bees are made to seek, work upon, and fertilize the blossoms. So you see it would seem like a blank in nature for bees to visit cast-iron flowers.

Bees go by scent, as you can easily determine by watching them; for instance, notice a colony of bees that has lost its queen; they will hover around the spot where the queen has been, just as if she were there, and you know they do not see her.

Bees, no doubt, see the blossoms, and bound from one to another by sight, but it is my candid opinion that they are first attracted by the sweet perfume. I am aware that neither red nor white clover, or in fact none of our best honey-plants furnish honey right along, year after year, that amounts to much; but my experience is that bees do get some honey when they work on flowers. What do you all think about it? And who will set me right if I am wrong? Friends, let's here from you on this question.

J. A.

**Queens Mating in the Air.**

There has been a great deal said on the subject of queens mating in the air. Some writers have gone so far as to deny statements made by someone who have claimed to have witnessed the mating of a queen, and it is likely this letter will meet with the same fate. However, I can produce conclusive evidence that the following is the true way the mating takes place.

As to the act of copulation taking place in the air, it is all true enough as far as it goes. I will state, without the least fear of contradiction, that the act begins in the air, and ends on the ground, or some obstacle, where the queen releases herself from the drone by means of her teeth instead of tearing loose, as some say or have imagined. I have not only witnessed a case of this kind, but a negro in this neighborhood who is reliable, claims to have witnessed a similar case.

It has never seemed to me that the queen could tear the sexual organ from the drone as claimed by some writers. Therefore, I have watched with patience to ascertain the true way this little freak of nature was performed, and my experience has been as stated above. Any extensive queen-breeder

may, during a season, see queens mate, by getting in a position to see objects falling from the air, and in the evening, when the young queens are flying out on their bridal trip, he will have a chance to see the queen and drone falling to the ground. Should you meet with a failure the first time, try, try again.

C. B. BANKSTON.

Chrisman, Tex., Dec. 29, 1892.

Friends, I think the time has just about arrived in beedom for us to say yes if we know it, and if we don't know it, better say nothing about it.

Again, my dear readers, let us look at things and examine them ourselves, as we start out with the new year, and let us realize that this is the time for selfishness and narrowness to disappear, and for all the world to be filled with the Auroral light of a broader and more perfect peace and good-will toward men.

J. A.

#### Kansas and Texas Contrasted.

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY:—It is very pleasing to read in your department of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, that apple trees are in bloom, and bees gathering some honey. The contrast between here and there is remarkable. Bees here at the Experiment Station have not had a flight since Nov. 30th. It snowed on the night of Dec. 6th, and remains yet. People say they have not seen snow remain on the ground so long for twenty years. Bees are as silent as the tomb. I hope the season for 1893 will be superior to that of 1892.

CHAS. L. STRICKLAND.

Peabody, Kans.

Friend Strickland, it will be remembered, is Professor of Apiculture at the Bee-Experiment Station of Peabody, and is the right man in the right place. The day he speaks of their big snow in Kansas, our bees worked all day on apple-bloom, but it was what we term "fall bloom," and out of season, but the bees worked on it nicely, just the same. We have had at this writing (Dec. 28th), however, a pretty fair taste of winter, the mercury running down to about 28° above zero. Our bees had a nice flight Christmas day, but have not flown since. This morning the sun is shining brightly, and the bees will likely have a flight to-day.

J. A.

"Bees and Honey"—page 69.

#### Cyprian Bees as "Watchmen."

MRS. ATCHLEY:—In your article on kinds of smoke and smokers, in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, you mention Cyprian bees. Can you tell me where I can get queens of the Cyprian race? I want the bees for educational purposes, to teach thieves to let bees alone. Do you think Cyprians would be good for that purpose? Answer through the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

W.

Grasmere, Fla.

Friend W., I cannot call to mind just now where you can get the Cyprian queens. I should think that the "Cyps" would make a pretty good set of "watchmen," especially if your thieves have no knowledge of the habits of bees. The "Cyps" are sure fighters when handled a little roughly, like a thief would likely have to do. Get a colony of Cyprians, and place them at the spot where it will be most likely to be filched, then the day after the depredation, search the neighborhood for big, ugly faces, and I believe you will be successful in finding the guilty party. Will any one who reads this, that has Cyprian bees, please put an advertisement of them in the BEE JOURNAL?

J. A.

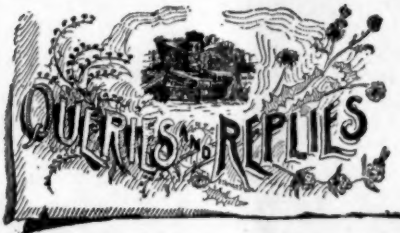
#### Queens as Premiums—Who Will Win?

To the person sending to me the largest number of new subscribers to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL from Jan. 1st to June 30th, 1893, I will give a fine breeding queen of the five-banded variety—such sell for \$10; for the next largest number, a three-banded breeder from imported mother; the next largest, a tested queen of either strain; the next, a dollar queen. Who will be the lucky parties? A correct account will be kept, and the premiums promptly paid on July 1, 1893.

Bee-keeping friends, why not each of you who is not now a subscriber to the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, send me your name with \$1.00, and receive as a premium the book "Bees and Honey?" This is the biggest offer in beedom, all to every new subscriber—52 BEE JOURNALS weekly, brimful of the very best bee-news, suited to all localities, all for \$1.00, and "Bees and Honey" to boot. Just think of it!

JENNIE ATCHLEY.  
Greenville, Texas.

Have You Read page 69 yet?



### What Advantage in a Flaring-Top Comb-Rack?

**Query 854.**—1. Is not an extractor having a flaring top to its comb-rack, the best? 2. Is it not best for the following reasons, viz.: That the honey-frames will the better stay in place, and also that the downward slope thus given to the honey-cells will be aided by gravitation?—Subscriber.

1. Yes.—E. FRANCE.

1. Yes. 2. Yes.—M. MAHIN.

Don't know.—MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

1. Yes, I think so.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

Pass me by. I'm like Dr. Miller—I dunno.—W. M. BARNUM.

Extractors work well enough without flaring sides.—P. H. ELWOOD.

1. Possibly, but I think it would need several experiments to fully establish it.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

1. I have never used this kind of an extractor. Your points seem meritorious.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

Try it in actual practice. In such case an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory.—C. C. MILLER.

It is said to be the best, though in practice I have never found much difference.—J. P. H. BROWN.

1. I think not. 2. No. Gravitation ceases to affect the flow, when the revolutions are rapid.—JAS. A. STONE.

1. No. 2. This matter has been tested oftentimes, and the flaring sides are found to be no improvement.—J. E. POND.

Centrifugal force holds them in place any way, and I doubt if there would be any advantage.—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

I fear that your points are too small and unimportant to be of practical value, if ever so true.—JAMES HEDDON.

1. Probably it would do no hurt, but I think one with a perpendicular basket would answer every purpose.—S. I. FREEBORN.

1. No. 2. With a straight frame holder the speed will be the same top and bottom; with the other style it will not.—H. D. CUTTING.

1. I could never see any advantage to speak of, though I have used both for years. 2. I don't think that in practice there is special advantage.—A. J. COOK.

1. Yes, I think this an improvement, as the honey will leave the cells with less motion, and consequently less labor and liability to breakage.—C. H. DIBBEN.

1. I should not care a dime which way the extractor was built, if it was strong and durable. 2. Not necessarily. The theory seems to be all right but in practice.—J. H. LARRABEE.

1. No. 2. When a good extractor is running, the centrifugal force is so much greater than that of gravity, that the sloping cells would tend to impede rather than to aid in releasing the honey.—R. L. TAYLOR.

1. I think not; besides it is doubtful if a good reversible extractor could be so made. 2. If the power of gravitation was of any consequence, I do see that we would need a honey extractor. The only force available in extracting honey is centrifugal force.—G. L. TINKER.

I have seen both the forms of "reels" you mention, and I have seen but little difference in their working, except that the frames will sometimes topple inward when first set into the straight reel. But the straight reel is not affected as much by the difference in the weight of the combs, as the flared reel. Both forms, however, work well under my care.—G. W. DEMAREE.

1. No. It is true that the frames will lie in place somewhat better, but this advantage is more than counterbalanced by the fact that the centrifugal force is greater at the top than at the bottom, so that if there is unsealed brood in the frame, it is liable to be thrown out the top before the honey is extracted from the bottom of the comb. 2. The part that gravitation would play would be but trifling.—JAMES A. GREEN.

Have You Read that wonderful book  
Premium offer on page 69?





## Report of the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

The North American Bee-Keepers' Association held its 23rd annual convention on Dec. 27th, 28th and 29th, 1892, at the Randall House in the city of Washington, D. C.

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m., with President Secor in the chair. R. F. Holtermann opened the exercises with prayer. The following members then paid their dues:

Frank Benton, Washington, D. C.  
 Ralph Benton, Washington, D. C.  
 Henry E. Bliss, West Winfield, N. Y.  
 J. P. Brown, Colona, Md.  
 Chas. Dallett, West Chester, Pa.  
 C. E. Dieffenderfer, Martinsburg, W. Va.  
 C. D. Duvall, Spencerville, Md.  
 P. Eberly, Strasburg, Va.  
 H. Frickey, Bishop, Calif.  
 O. L. Hershisser, Buffalo, N. Y.  
 J. E. Hetherington, Cherry Valley, N. Y.  
 Wm. Hislop, Strasburg, Ont.  
 R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont.  
 A. C. Hoopes, Washington, D. C.  
 W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.  
 W. L. Kemp, Farmington, Pa.  
 T. F. King, Landover, Md.  
 W. H. Laws, Lavaca, Ark.  
 E. M. Pittman, Centerville, Va.  
 J. W. Porter, Charlottesville, Va.  
 H. Segelken, New York, N. Y.  
 Geo. Sharpless, London Grove, Pa.  
 E. A. Stratton, Horseheads, N. Y.  
 R. F. Wier, South River, Md.  
 George W. York, Chicago, Ills.

### LIFE MEMBERS PRESENT.

A. N. Draper, Upper Alton, Ills.  
 A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio.  
 E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio.  
 Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.  
 O. R. Coe, Windham, N. Y., became a life member during the year, but was not present at the meeting.

### LADY MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mrs. H. E. Bliss, West Winfield, N. Y.  
 Miss Sarah E. Joslin, Cincinnati, O.  
 Mrs. W. H. Laws, Lavaca, Ark.  
 Mrs. H. Martin, Yonkers, N. Y.  
 Miss Ellen Reed, Cincinnati, O.  
 Mrs. A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio.  
 Mrs. Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.  
 Miss Segelken, New York, N. Y.  
 Mrs. H. Segelken, New York, N. Y.  
 Mrs. Geo. Sharpless, London Grove, Pa.  
 Miss Jessie Wier, South River, Md.  
 Mrs. R. F. Wier, South River, Md.

### AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

The following societies paid their affiliation fees:

Connecticut State Bee-Keepers' Society.

York (Nebraska) Bee-Keepers' Association.

Iowa State Bee-Keepers' Association.

Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association.

The payment of dues being completed, Mr. Eugene Secor then delivered

### The President's Annual Address.

I wish, first of all, to express my sense of gratitude to the all-merciful Father who has permitted us to see each others, faces again at our annual gathering.

So far as I know, no member of this association has been called to cross the silent river since last we met. Abundant labor and insidious disease may have enfeebled some of our honored veterans, and deprived us of the pleasure of their presence and counsel, yet I am thankful that they still live, and their interest in apiculture will turn their thoughts towards this convention.

One of the pleasant features of an organized association is the thought of meeting kindred spirits and renewing old, or forming new, friendships. The opportunities which these meetings afford for social intercourse and personal acquaintance should not be lightly thrown aside. Life-long attachments are created which are cheering and helpful to many a pilgrim as he nears the sundown of life. These meetings, too, bring us face to face with those whose writings we have read, and I opine that after we have become acquainted with a writer we know better what value to place on his dictum.

Those who believe that bee-keepers' conventions are only valuable in proportion to the number and length of the discussions on technical subjects, have failed to take into account the social

part of our nature, and the benefits to be derived from a closer personal contact with those who have achieved success in the same line of work.

#### INVENTIONS IN APICULTURE.

Our meeting in this city is opportune. We are enabled by the records and models in the Patent Office to learn what science and invention have done in the last forty years for the pursuit which we represent. Indeed, it will not be boasting if we assert that in the period named, more progress has been made in the field of practical apiculture than in all previous recorded time. Some interesting and important facts relating to the natural history of the honey-bee had been known for a long time, but they were facts which were not particularly valuable to the honey-producer until the invention of the movable-frame hive. The improvements which followed in rapid succession made a new era in bee-keeping. Until then it was an uncertain and unremunerative employment. When the caravans of the East took honey as an article of merchandise from the land of Assyria to Egypt, they probably got their supply from the mountain caves, where the wild bees, in favorable years, had stored a surplus. But I have no idea that any one in the great cities of the ancients ever got a taste of it except the rich.

Following the invention of the Langstroth hive came the extractor, the section honey-box, and comb foundation, the last two, in my opinion, as important as anything ever given to bee-keepers. The section-box has popularized honey to an extent little known or dreamed of a half century ago. Instead of the large, unwieldy boxes of honey which our grandfathers took to market, or the tubs of broken honey so familiar in those days, the grocer can now supply his customer with a neat package of almost any desirable quantity, without so much as soiling his fingers.

The queen-cage, also, and the ability to send queens by express and mail to the remote parts of the earth, gave an impetus to bee-culture never before felt. And be it said to the credit of American inventors and breeders, they are never content with mediocrity. Bee-keepers' meetings and our excellent bee-literature have awakened interest and enquiry, the mechanical genius of the age has been stimulated to meet the demand for improved appliances, and queen-breeders have spent much time and money trying to improve the honey-pro-

ducing qualities of the bee first introduced into this country. In the desire for improvement (or novelty), in the latter direction there have been undesirable importations in my judgment, but, on the whole, progress in the right direction. Indeed, it may be said, too, that not all our inventions are improvements, but they mark the milestones on the road to success. Bee-keeping, like our civilization, is yet in a state of transition, but as Paul advises, we are going on toward perfection, although we may never reach it.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE HONEY-BEE.

The bee-keepers of the country belong to that great army of producers who are feeding the world, and at the same time are trying to solve the problem how to feed themselves—in other words, how to make an honest and decent living from the natural resources which the Creator has placed within their reach—resources, too, the use of which do not impoverish but enrich the earth.

Were the honey-bee blotted out of the book of nature, few people realize the loss to agriculture, horticulture and floriculture that would result. These kindred industries are slow to acknowledge the benefits derived from the bees, as an important aid to complete fertilization in many plants, as positively necessary to others, and beneficial to all flowers visited by them. Cross-fertilization is Nature's method of progress. The bees are Nature's assistants in this work. No other known agency can be substituted. Instead of hostility, the bee-keeper should receive the thanks of the agriculturist and fruit-growers, and the fostering protection of the Government. Its entomological experts should not only spread abroad knowledge regarding insects injurious to vegetation, but also correct information as to those which are helpful to the farmer.

If bee-keeping be a lawful and necessary pursuit, the Government should throw around it the same protective legislation that is granted the dairyman and pork-raiser. We can no more compete against glucose honey with an honest product than the farmer can against oleomargarine butter or cottonseed lard.

#### ADULTERATION OF HONEY.

I wish right here to express my disapproval of a method of adding to the income of the honey-producer (which has been recently much discussed) by feeding a substance not distilled in Nature's

laboratory. If it is no longer possible to produce honey at a profit in large apiaries from the natural secretions of plants and flowers, it is an argument to my mind that the business is being overdone in some localities, and that it is time to return to the practice, once more general than now, of smaller apiaries and a wider distribution of bees throughout the country.

In my judgment we cannot longer prosper if we adopt methods which will put us on the defensive in every honey market in the country. Adulteration is the crying sin of the age. The people are becoming aroused on the subject. We ourselves are trying to put a stop to it. It will not be sufficient to say that this improved article is to be sold for just what it is. If it is possible to produce it at a profit, it will not be long before every consumer will have heard of the trick, and conclude to make his own honey. Any attempt to forestall the seasons will prove a delusion and a snare.

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In closing, allow me to thank you for the honor conferred by calling me to preside over this, the 23rd annual meeting of this association. Among my predecessors are some of the foremost bee-keepers of the country and world. I am happy to be numbered among such an array of talent and worth. The bee-keepers of America may well be proud of the pioneers in this industry. Such names as Langstroth and Quinby will ever make bee-keeping a respectable calling.

EUGENE SECOR.

Frank Benton—Pres. Secor says that the Government ought to pay attention to beneficial as well as injurious insects. It does. The Government entomologists study insects from a purely scientific standpoint. Their life history and habits are studied most closely, and when it becomes desirable to work against their multiplication, or to encourage it, this knowledge is of great benefit. For instance, the scale insect threatened to destroy the orange industry of California, when the Government sent a man to Australia, the home of the scale (where, by the way, it did comparatively little harm), to see what could be learned of its life history, and of any parasitic insects that might prey upon it. As it did no harm in that country, the entomologist argued that there must be some natural enemy that kept it in check. It was found as supposed. A sort of lady-bug fed upon the scale. Large quantities of this bug were imported to California. The ravages of the scale soon diminished, and the vast orange industry of California was saved.

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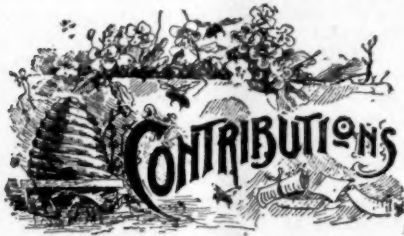
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(Continued next week.)



### The Subject of Reproduction in Bees Considered.

*Written for the American Bee Journal*  
BY PROF. A. J. COOK.

We will understand our topic all the better if we give the subject of reproduction a brief, general consideration.

There are three methods of reproduction among animals—by Fission, Gemmation, and Sexual Reproduction. The first two, by separation and budding, seem to ally plants and animals; indeed the whole philosophy of the science of to-day shows that nature is one great whole.

Fission is explained by the word separation. An animal separates, and two animals are the result. We see the same in reproduction of strawberries by runners. This division is no rare sight in our Zoological laboratories. It is often a rapid performance, and so we may witness the whole operation at one sitting at our microscopic study. This method is confined to four branches of the animal kingdom: the lowest, or Protozoans, single-celled animals, where it is the only method; the sponges, where any separation, however rude, results in no serious harm, but in as many perfect animals as there are of the divisions; among the coral branch of animals, where even accidental division often results, in as sure and perfect reproduction as that just described among sponges. The branch Vermes—worms—illustrates this method of reproduction in a few cases.

Gemmation, or budding, is well explained in the last word. A bud starts forth, develops, and possibly drops off, when it becomes a single animal like its parent. It may not drop off, in which case we have a compound form, as seen in all real coral animals. This law of reproduction is best illustrated in the branch of animals including the corals, and is also illustrated in a few of the worms. In our laboratories we have

opportunity to observe the whole operation in the very interesting fresh-water Hydra. This is so rapid in development that it is not tedious to watch it, from beginning to end. All animals that develop by gemmation develop also sexually.

Sexual Reproduction is where an egg or germ-cell is produced in an organ, called an ovary, or female organ, and a sperm-cell in a male organ. Usually the sperm-cell must enter and become incorporated within the egg, to insure development or reproduction. In some cases, as with drone-bees and plant-lice, the eggs are fecund without receiving the sperm-cells; but this is exceptional. This kind of reproduction prevails in all animals except the lowest of single-celled branch, and in all of these branches, if we except the coral animals and a few worms, it is the only method of increase.

There are two kinds of sexual animals, those where both the male and female organs are found in the same animal, and those where the sexes are distinct. The first are known as hermaphrodites, and uni-sexual or monœcious animals; the others are bi-sexual or dioecious. Here, again, we see a tie binding plants and animals together, for every observer knows that most, even of our higher plants, are monœcious, while not a few, like the willow, the poplar, the hemp, etc., are dioecious.

Both of these methods are illustrated in most of the lower branches, indeed in all branches of sexual animals except the two highest. Thus animals as high as the angle worm and snail are hermaphrodites or uni-sexual, that is, each animal is both male and female, while we find bi-sexual animals among all the lower branches of sexual animals; the two highest branches, the insect and back-bone branches, consist wholly of them. Thus our bees are not only bi-sexual, but they belong to a branch that is practically dioecious throughout.

The sexual animals are again divided into the oviparous, those which lay eggs which develop and hatch outside the mother, and where the unhatched young must get all its nourishment from the egg, except as it may secure something, as oxygen, from the surrounding media; the ovoviviparous also called sometimes, unfortunately, viviparous, where the egg hatches inside the mother, and so the young is born alive and active, though the nourishment is still wholly from the egg; and viviparous where the young develops within the mother and secures nearly all its nourishment from the mother, and not from the egg.

Birds, bees, indeed most insects, are oviparous, or of the first group. Some of the sharks, many snakes, all the summer broods of plant-lice, and indeed not a few other insects are of the second group or ovoviviparous. One has to hold a stem or leaf covered with aphides plant-lice—but a few moments in mid-summer, under close observation, to see a number of lice born. Here all the eggs hatch within the mother.

The mammals, all back-boned animals that suckle their young, are viviparous, that is, the young receives their food almost wholly from the mother. Here the blood-vessels of the mother and young come in very close contact, so that while the blood never passes directly from mother to her prenatal young, yet nourishing material, including oxygen, does so pass, and so the young is fed. The placenta, a very vascular organ where this interchange takes place, may be likened to the lungs after birth, except that here the blood receives not only oxygen, but all nourishment, and gives off not only carbonic acid, but nearly all the excreta.

In bi-sexual animals, as we have seen, the sperm-cells of the male must pass into the eggs or germ-cells, or no development ensues. In some cases, as with most fish, there is no mating. The milt, or sperm-cells, and the roe, or eggs will pass from parents into the water, and their meeting is fortuitous. Here, of course, impregnation is not at all certain, and so sperm-cells or germ-cells exist by the millions—must, or the species would soon cease to exist. The danger is less, however, from the fact that at times of spawning both males and females resort to the same localities, as the salmon and other marine species, then pass up rivers and over gravel beds.

Nearly all dioecious animals, even some fish, mate, and so germ and sperm cells are brought near together, in the same tubular apparatus, and as the sperm-cells are always very active, mating if both parents are healthy and perfect, is almost sure to be followed by impregnation.

In a few insects, like our bees, the sperm-cells are received at mating time into a special vesicle, on the side of the oviduct of the female, known as the spermatheca. It is estimated that the spermatheca of the queen-bee may contain millions of the sperm-cells. This organ is under the control of the female insect, and she can liberate the sperm-cells or withhold them, as the eggs pass by this organ; and as all bee-keepers know, if the sperm-cells are liberated

by the queen, the egg is impregnated and develops into a female, while if they are withheld, of course the egg is not impregnated, and yet curiously enough, it still develops, and a male always results.

The queen liberates the sperm-cells by simply opening the duct from the spermatheca, when the ever active sperm-cells push out. In case a female insect is possessed of a spermatheca, she does not need to meet the male but once, and probably never does in case impregnation is successful. We see, then, that our bees reproduce by sexual reproduction, that they are bi-sexual, oviparous, must mate, but if successful, never mate but once, as the female possesses a spermatheca, and that in the production of the drones or males they are agamic, that is, the unimpregnated eggs develop, but always produce males.

It is sometimes questioned if drones from eggs of fertile workers or unimpregnated queens, would be able to impregnate a queen. All such drones have perfect organs, and the sperm-cells are present, and to all appearances just as active and perfect as in other drones. I see no reason to doubt their potency. Indeed, I think cases have been reported where they were proved to be sexually potent.

There is one more question connected with reproduction in which there has been much discussion and some difference of opinion. It is stoutly affirmed by some, that the mere presence of sperm-cells in the reproductive system of a female affects her organism so that the eggs which pass subsequently from her ovaries will be affected. Thus if the sperm-cells are from an animal of another breed, her offspring will be impure long after these sperm-cells are gone, and even if impregnation occurs by pure mating. The presence of sperm-cells in the organism, taints the organism. To illustrate this point, suppose a short-horn cow was mated with a galloway male and produces a cross, half short horn and half galloway. All subsequent offspring from this cow, even though mated with a pure short-horn like herself, would be tainted with galloway blood. It is claimed that this law holds with mammals, birds and bees.

I wish to say that I am skeptical in this whole matter. As to mammals I have no positive proof, but a large breeder of mules in Texas writes me that he has had opportunity over and over again to see proof of it, and yet he never saw a vestige of proof. It is easy to see how, through carelessness, or atavism in

case of a slight trace of impurity, in either parent, there should be seeming evidence for this law, and yet really be none. It would seem more probable in case of mammals than with birds or bees, for here not only are the sperm-cells present, but a half-blood foetus is present in the uterus all through gestation, and possibly might, through cell inoculation, so affect the mother as to affect her subsequent progeny. Yet I must say that it seems to me so impossible, that I question the whole position.

In case of poultry, where the law is as stoutly defended as with mammals, there is no organic connection, for birds are oviparous. Here, then, any affect must come wholly through the simple presence of the sperm-cells, for a brief time, in the oviduct. To test this, I secured some light Brahma and brown Leghorn fowls. These are so different as to color, markings, eggs, etc., that they afforded an excellent chance to test the matter. I kept cocks and hens together in one pen all winter, and saw the cocks of one breed repeatedly mating with the hens of the other breeds. In the spring I separated them, putting the Brahmas in one pen, and the Leghorns in another. I waited three weeks, and commenced to set eggs. I reared over 100 chickens, and yet saw no trace of impurity. Both breeds were entirely true to standard. We know how a mere trace of Brahma blood will put feathers on the legs. Yet every Leghorn had legs as clean as ever seen in the most typical Leghorn. I hardly need to say that I now have still less faith in this law as applied to poultry.

When Messrs. D. A. Jones and Frank Benton went to the Orient for bees, I rejoiced in the chance to get some of the Asiatic bees that I might test the same law with them. I got a fine Syrian queen, and reared a number of queens from her eggs the first summer. Of course all of these were mated with Italian drones, for as yet we had no other. The next spring we had abundant drones from the old queen, and many more from the young queens mated with Italian drones. The first were from a purely-mated Syrian—one mated in the Orient—the others were from queens mated here before we had a Syrian drone in the apiary. Here we had hundreds, yes thousands of cases, to test this law in case of bees.

All who have seen Syrian drones need not be told that they are so different from Italians that no one could mistake them. Yet in all these cases all the drones were emphatically and entirely

Syrians. I could never see a trace of Italian markings. I had many persons look with me, and all were of one mind in the matter. Thus with me, the matter is settled. *The drones from a pure queen will be pure and of her blood, no matter how she is mated.* If drones show taint, then the queen is impure. This must be true, from the law of agamic reproduction, which holds in the production of drone-bees, unless the mere presence of sperm-cells in the reproductive apparatus affects the entire reproductive organism of the queen. Thus I think we may say *no* in case of birds and bees, and I claim the right to use an interrogation point in case of mammals, like our horses, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Sometimes bee-keepers think that they have evidence that bees have removed sperm-cells from worker-eggs, and that worker-eggs have produced drones. I think there must be a mistake here. The sperm-cells are very minute. It takes a high-power microscope to even see them. They pass at once into a microscopic opening—the micropyle—of the egg and becomes incorporated into the substance of the egg. Thus the bees could not see or handle these cells, even if they could reach them, and this, of course, they could not do. Thus in all such cases some other explanation must be sought.

Eggs often refuse to hatch. This is true of eggs of all animals. Such females are barren. We cannot say just what is wrong, only that the ovaries are diseased, or at fault, and so the eggs are worthless. It is no wonder that this is so. The wonder is, that there are not more cases, when we consider the extreme complexity of the whole apparatus. The sperm-cells, as well as the eggs, may be worthless, in which case the male is diseased.

Agricultural College, Mich.

### Good Prospects for Bee-Culture in California.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY W. A. PRYAL.

This year has opened up in grand style. The weather for the past three or four days has been charming—clear and bright, and balmy. It is like April or May weather. As we have had an abundance of rain, and as there is no doubt that more will follow at the right time, it is pretty safe to say that Cali



ornia's chances for a good honey crop are good.

The rains have been general all over the State. While here we have had in the neighborhood of 14 inches, half that amount has fallen in some of our big valleys, and yet in other portions of the State, mainly in the mountains, possibly more than twice as much has fallen, as we, down here near the bay of San Francisco, have had.

With plenty of rain early in the winter, and copious rains in the spring, the big bee-gardens of California yield nectar quite profusely.

My bees never "wintered" in finer condition. I have not lost a single colony of the 60 I have in frame hives. I had three August swarms in old fruit-boxes, two of which are *non est*, and the other is being built up in a double hive.

#### MAKING COMB FOR BEESWAX.

If I were running a large apiary hereabouts, I would not try to have over 100 decent hives; all others I would put in old boxes and work them for the wax I could get from them. The reason of this is that this locality is overstocked, and yet there is enough honey to allow a large number of colonies to build comb.

Late swarms could build the hive nearly full of comb, and if they were not able to go through the winter without becoming a prey to robbers, or without requiring more food than they were worth, they could be allowed to demonstrate "the survival of the fittest." This may not be good doctrine, but it will go for this section. Of course I would act differently if I were in a good honey region, for it would be to my interest to have as many colonies as possible.

If all the swarms that go to the woods, rocks, or into the ground every year in this State, were "hived" in old fruit-boxes (and wagon loads of them can be had for the hauling), and run for wax, just think what an enormous lot of wax we would produce annually! and that in addition to what we obtain in the usual way. This could be done, and it would be perfectly right, too, for is it not better to keep the bees rather than have them go to the hills and help overstock good bee-ranges? This subject alone is material enough for an article.

We usually have some severe frosts by Dec. 28th or 29th, but they have passed us, and it is probable we will have an open winter, as I have intimated. So far tomato plants have just been frost bitten enough to cause them to die, though the fruit yet remains good on the

open ground. Calla lilies, heliotropes and bedding plants have not been affected by what cold we have had, and which was about the middle of the past month. The blue-gum (*eucalyptus globulus*) is coming into bloom, and will give the bees plenty of nectar.

I find that raspberries are blooming very early this year—nearly every plant in our two patches (3 acres) is in bloom, and to-day I noticed the bees were making merry upon the blossoms. How would the reader like to eat raspberries right off the bushes at Christmas and New Years? Well, that is what we have been doing. The only trouble is, the berries have not that fine flavor they have a month or two later, and all through the spring and summer.

I find that this is the best time to go through the hives and clip the queens' wings that have not been previously "barbarized." It is easy to find them now.

To-day I find that some of my hives have three and four combs well filled with brood; the young bees are coming out of some of them. I do not remember them doing so well before.

North Temescal, Calif., Jan. 2, 1893.

#### But Little Adulterated Honey Marketed.

Written for the American Bee Journal

BY J. M. JACOBS.

To speak plainly, I think there is but very little adulterated honey on the market. I have made one or two trips every fall in Northern Iowa, Dakota and Minnesota for the last nine years; have sold from 20,000 to 40,000 pounds of honey each year, and never have I been able to supply all of my customers; and with three exceptions never have I found any adulterated honey, and the adulterated honey I found was so inferior that I could not see how any one could be deceived. Pure extracted honey will granulate, and in its granulating will settle to the bottom of the can or jar, and that will expose the fraud.

I went into a merchant's store to sell some honey. He looked at my samples and pronounced all honey-dealers as frauds. I asked him his reasons, and he said, "Come here, and look at this stuff I have just received from some of your honest bee-keepers!" I was shown five cans of very fine granulated white clover honey. I called for a dish, took

a common lamp, melted the granulation, and handing him the liquidated honey, I said, "What do you think of that?" He thought it very nice. I explained to him, and he was happy.

It seems strange to us, but it is a fact that people do not know that pure extracted honey will granulate, and that alone is responsible, for the public generally are inclined to think because honey granulates it must be adulterated. I think we have nothing to fear from that source. I could sell 200,000 pounds every fall, if I could get the honey to sell. I never yet have been able to get enough to supply my trade. I am a bee-keeper, and sell pure honey. Clinton Co., Iowa.

[We do not presume to say to just what extent the adulteration of honey is practiced, but we have it on pretty good evidence that if it were fully known how much it is done, it would cause our friend Jacobs and others like him to stand in utter amazement! Murder is not a general thing, and yet we believe in preventing or prohibiting it entirely, and must have good laws upon that subject. When we once get a law that we can "screw down" on adulterators of honey and other food products, a good many will be surprised at what will result from the "squeeze." The BEE JOURNAL is ready to push on the "lever" with a pretty heavy force. Just give us a chance!—Ed.]

#### Convention Notices.

**CALIFORNIA.**—The 2nd annual meeting of the California State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the Chamber of Commerce in Los Angeles, Calif., on Feb. 7th and 8th, 1892. Programmes will soon be issued, for which address, JOHN H. MARTIN, Sec. Redlands, Calif.

**NEW YORK.**—The next meeting of the Allegany County Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at Belmont, N. Y., on May 4th, 1893, in the Hotel Belmont. All bee-keepers are invited to attend and make it what it should be—an interesting meeting.

H. C. FARNUM, Pres., Transit Bridge, N. Y.

Please Send Us the Names of your neighbors who keep bees, and we will send them sample copies of the BEE JOURNAL. Then please call upon them and get them to subscribe with you, and secure some of the premiums we offer.



Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

#### Heavy Colonies for Wintering.

I got my bees all into the cellar in time to miss this cold spell. Their average net weight was 60 pounds per hive—the heaviest I have ever put into winter quarters. JAS. A. STONE.

Bradfordton, Ills., Dec. 28, 1892.

#### Profitable Reading, Indeed.

I have followed instructions given in the BEE JOURNAL the past season, and as a result, I have gained more than ten times the cost of the JOURNAL from 10 colonies of bees.

HORATIO N. SCRATCH.

Kingsville, Ont., Dec. 30, 1892.

#### Bees Wintering Well.

I commenced last spring with 4 colonies, and had 6 swarms, 2 of which went off. I saved the other 4, which are wintering well. I did not get much honey, as the season was bad, and not much bloom. I could not get along without the BEE JOURNAL and keep bees.

W. S. MEADOR.

True, W. Va., Dec. 31, 1892.

#### Experience of the Past Season.

I bought 2 colonies of bees last spring, and transferred them to dovetailed hives on May 6th. One stored 29 one-pound sections of honey, which brought 15 cents per pound at home. The other colony took the swarming fever and swarmed four times; two times they went back into the old hive, and the third time I hived them, but they came out again, and flew about 50 feet, then returned to the new hive. I now have 3 strong colonies, with the hives crammed full of capped honey.

FRANK B. ATKINS.

Hannibal, Mo., Dec. 26, 1892.

**Honey from Golden-Rod and Alsike.**

We had a very fine season in this part of Michigan, especially for fall honey, but few bees, as those that wintered bees on the summer stands lost nearly all last winter. I got 14 cents for my honey in my home market—fall honey and all—and could have sold double the quantity. I never saw nicer fall honey; it was white and thick, and of good flavor.

There is a great deal of golden-rod here. I would like to have some of those here, some fine day in the fall, that say bees do not work on golden-rod. I could show them thousands of them at work on it. We have two species of it, and the bees work well on both. I have about five acres of Alsike clover, which is a splendid honey-plant, and the honey is of good quality. C. A. WRIGHT.

Little Prairie Ronde, Mich., Dec. 29.

**More than Paid their Expenses.**

Bees did very poorly last season, but in the eight years that I have kept bees there has been no season but that they have paid their expenses, and more. I can't do without the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL as long as I keep bees.

GEO. GALE.

Adams, Nebr., Jan. 4, 1893.

**Wintering Very Nicely So Far.**

I put 25 colonies into the cellar on Nov. 12th, in fine condition, with plenty of stores. They are wintering very nicely so far. The past season was very poor for honey. From 20 colonies, spring count, I got only 500 pounds of comb honey. I hope we may get better crops in the future than we have had for the past three seasons.

L. CHANDLER.

New London, Minn., Jan. 2, 1893.

**Gathered Enough Honey for Winter.**

The past was a poor year here, and the bees barely gathered enough honey for their food. I have 46 colonies in good condition in winter quarters. They are all in double chaff hives, and I hope to bring them all through. From 40 colonies I only got 200 pounds of comb honey, and 100 pounds of extracted, and only 3 swarms. Numerous colonies died from hunger in this neighborhood, and many more will suffer from hunger this winter. ALBERT SCHUMACHER.

New Elms, Ind., Dec. 27, 1892.

**Has Kept Bees Over 50 Years.**

I have been reading the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for many years, and I am not tired of it yet. I have kept bees over 50 years, and the last 10 years I have had from 150 to 250 colonies, but I am nearly 73 years old, so I reduced them to 120. I had over three tons of honey the past season. My brother, J. H. Byer, kept about the same number of colonies. I am sorry to say that he took sick Dec. 10th with inflammation of the lungs, and died on the 19th; his wife took sick on the 18th, and died on the 20th. Both were buried in one grave on the 21st. We used to help each other.

DAVID BYER.

Markham, Ont., Dec. 26, 1892.

**Bees in Good Condition.**

I had a tolerably good fall flow of honey; I got about a ton of it. The flow stopped quite suddenly, and left quite a number of sections unfinished. We have a fairly good market for it here. I have 95 colonies, and they are in better condition than they have been for a number of years.

D. C. McLEOD.

Pana, Ills., Dec. 29, 1892.

**Results of the Season.**

Being sick last winter, and not able to look after my bees, about one-half of them died during the winter, and the balance, except 3 colonies, died from spring dwindling. My loss in all was over 20 colonies. They all had an abundance of honey. Two swarms came to me, and went into empty hives. I had 2 swarms from my own. One of the stray swarms was very weak, and became queenless, so I united it with another. I have now 6 good colonies, and all in good condition. I got about 150 pounds of comb honey.

JOHN KERR.

Cedar Falls, Iowa, Dec. 30, 1892.

**Experience with a Young Queen.**

On June 17, 1892, I had a prime swarm issue, and nine days later I cut out all queen-cells but one, as I then thought. On July 8th, or just 21 days after the old queen had left the hive, I examined them, expecting to find a young laying queen, but to my surprise I found nothing of the kind, and on holding a frame in my hand, I heard the piping of a young queen thereon, and

found between the bottom-bar and the lower edge of the comb a ripe queen-cell. I at once took a pen-knife and opened the cell, and out came a nice yellow queen, as lively as could be. She ran over my hand, and in a few seconds flew off, which was the last I saw of her. Will some experienced bee-keeper please explain how she remained in her cell for 21 days?

JOHN SUNDERMANN.

Huntington, Ind., Dec. 31, 1892.

### Fair Crop Realized, Etc.

The past season, in this part of the bee-world, was not very encouraging to bee-keepers. The producers of comb honey realized almost a total failure, while the ones that produced the extracted article met with a little better success. As I belonged to the latter class, I realized a fair crop. I received the first premium at the Great Interstate Fair held here, but the prize was not very "scrumptious"—only \$2.00. I also exhibited the first bees at this Fair, and the first beeswax. There was no premium on either of these.

JOSEPH EHRET.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 31, 1892.

### Wintering No More a Problem.

Seven years ago last fall I caught a stray swarm, and kept them along for about three years in the old-fashioned way. I have 82 colonies in the cellar now, well provided with good honey—not honey-dew, as last winter. Wintering is no more a problem to me.

The last was the poorest season we have had here. Last spring I had about 40 colonies. I secured about 600 pounds of comb honey, and the bees doubled in number of colonies. My hives are all eight-frame but five. I hope the next season will be better, but I think it pays me, for it keeps me in good health to attend to bees. The stings seem to do me good—it is good for my neuralgia. I shall be 75 years old before bees swarm again.

A. F. CROSBY.

Sheffield, Iowa, Dec. 30, 1892.

**The Honey Almanac for 1893**  
will be issued about Jan. 20th.

**Great Premium on page 69!**



### A Half-Dozen "Stray Straws."

350 million people talk Chinese; 105, English; 100, Hindoo; 80 Russian; 45, German; 38, French.

A correspondent asks what insurance companies insure bees against fire, etc. I don't know. Who does?

British bee-keepers are to have in London a competitive exhibition of the honey intended for the World's Fair, before it starts for this side the water.

For Dysentery, the *Medical Brief* says one of the best remedies is two or three eggs daily, beaten up lightly with or without sugar. This for people, not for bees.

"A nuclei" is something spoken of quite too often. There is no such thing, any more than there is "a women." You may have a "nucleus;" but if more than one, then they are "nuclei."

A common error is to suppose that, in setting a weak colony in place of a strong one in order to strengthen it, it is important that the change be made when the largest number of bees are out. There will be just as much gain if the change is made at midnight.—Dr. C. C. MILLER, in *Gleanings*.

### Best Advice I Can Give Bee-Keepers.

Prevent waste. There is no occasion for a well person in this country to be poor. Waste in some form makes the difference between poverty and comfort. Are any of your hive covers or bottom-boards or feeders or other implements of the apiary unnecessarily exposed to the weather? What becomes of your broken comb and pieces of wax? Do you allow the moths to destroy your empty combs? If so, get your hand on the stop that controls waste, and bear on. Get on it with both feet, if necessary. It will improve your circumstances.

Don't chase rainbows. You think you are an inventor, but you are not. That



new hive or frame or other contrivance you have been planning so long—drop it. And be a little wary of other people's inventions. Your indorsement is not encessary to save a good thing from oblivion, and your money can't save a bad one. Don't waste time waiting for some promised invention that is to work wonders. The chances are a thousand to one that it won't come, and like odds that if it comes it will prove worthless.

Don't get discouraged. Be neither elated nor depressed. Don't give away your bees nor don't destroy them. Crowd them for all they are worth, but go slow on increase. Add as few to the number of your colonies as possible. Feel your way till you know your ground and stick close to your business. The horse with the best staying qualities is the one to bet on.

Strike while the iron is hot. In bee-keeping work *must* be done at the right time. To do otherwise is to give success away. If you will do everything at the right time, your work will not crowd you at any period. Get everything ready this winter for the honey season and swarming, and then keep up with your work.

Finally, don't get excited about new things or new ways. Follow present plans until in your coolest moments you decide a change to be the best. Let others try novelties first. Exercise your intelligence and keep your head level. Sleep well at night, and keep wide awake in the day time.—R. L. TAYLOR, in *Bee-Keeper's Review*.

### Bee-Keeping as a Specialty.

Bee-keeping as a specialty is all right in exceptionally good localities; but there are but few localities in the United States where it can be made a specialty. In California, most of the bee-keepers have some outside work or industry: the fruit and bee business go well together; also, the raising of strawberries and vegetables. For myself I have combined the small fruit and nursery business, with the bee business and find they go admirably together.

Bee-keeping is not worked here (California), as it was a few years ago; it has kind of quieted down, in one sense. That is a good thing, for it will principally be conducted in the future by those most eminently qualified to run such a business. Bee-keeping will pay as well as any other rural occupation if rightly followed. No farmer at first depends entirely upon one variety of grain, or fruit, as his sole occupation, and there-

fore bee-keeping must follow suit. I am heartily glad that I commenced bee-keeping; glad that my vision has been opened to a higher, greater, grander range of thought concerning God's works. Bee-keeping is an ennobling and elevating occupation. I have met with more reverses than generally falls to the lot of the average bee-keeper; the whole trouble was caused by investing too heavily in bees and implements in a very poor location. I am afraid I was too ambitious and overdid the matter; still, I now see that I have greatly gained in bee-culture and everything else by these early reverses.

I now have a splendid location and have done well the past season; but I have learned one thing, and learned it well—if bees do not pay for their care and attention in surplus honey that you must bestow on them, that is, enough to pay for sections, crates, foundation, cans, etc., and earn you a small per cent., you had better not invest a cent in supplies until they do. Make your bees pay for everything needed in the apiary, and you will be all right.—S. L. WATKINS, in *American Apiculturist*.

### Floating Bee-Houses on the Nile.

In Lower Egypt, where the flower harvest is not so early by several weeks as in the upper districts of that country, the practice of transportation is carried on to a considerable extent. About the end of October the hives, after being collected together from different villages and conveyed up the Nile, marked and numbered by the individuals to whom they belong, are heaped pyramidically upon the boats prepared to receive them, which, floating gradually down the river and stopping at certain stages of their passage, remain there a longer or shorter time, according to the produce which is offered by the surrounding country.

After travelling three months in this manner, the bees, having culled the perfume of the orange flowers of the Said, the essence of roses of the Falcum, the treasures of the Arabian jessamine, and a variety of flowers, are brought back about the beginning of February to the places from which they have been carried.

The productiveness of the flowers at each respective stage is ascertained by the gradual descent of the boats in the water, and which is probably noted by a scale of measurement. This industry produces for the Egyptians delicious honey and abundance of wax.—B. B. J.



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Wallace Porter Dec93  
Suffield, Portage co, Ohio

**Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.**

The following Quotations are for Saturday, January 14th, 1892:

**CHICAGO, ILL.**—There are occasional sales of best grades of comb honey, but the retailers are not yet sold out on supply laid in before the holidays. Prices are a little easier, especially on that which will not grade "fancy"—such brings 17@18c., and other grades 12@16c. Extracted, 6@9c., as to quality. Beeswax—22@25c. H. A. B. & Co.

**CHICAGO, ILL.**—Fancy stock is very scarce, with plenty of inquiry, with good prices offered for same. It sells readily at 18c.; No. 1 comb, 16@17c. Dark sells slow. White extracted, fair supply, with good demand at 8½; dark, 6@7c. Beeswax—23@25c. J. A. L.

**CINCINNATI, OHIO.**—Demand from manufacturers, for extracted honey, was slow for the last few weeks, while there was, and is still, a fair demand from consumers for family use. There is no choice comb honey in the market. Best white comb brings 14@16c. Extracted honey brings 6@8c.

Beeswax—Demand fair, at 23@25c. for good to choice yellow. Supply good. C. F. M. & S.

**NEW YORK, N. Y.**—Demand for comb honey is very light. White fancy stock is well cleaned up. The market is well stocked with off grades and buckwheat, and prices are irregular. Extracted is in good demand and stocks are light. We quote: Basswood and white clover, 8@8½c.; buckwheat, 6@6½c.; Southern, 7@7½c. per gallon. Beeswax—25@27c. H. B. & S.

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**—Choice extracted is scarce at 7@7½c., and demand heavier than supply. Choice comb is not scarce at 10@12c., according to quality, 1-lbs. Beeswax is neglected at 22@23c. S., L. & S.

**BOSTON, MASS.**—Comb honey is selling slow, very much slower than we like to have it, and it is our experience that when we start honey in at a high price, it sells hard right through the season. We quote our market nominally at 17@18c. for best white honey, 1-lb. combs. Extracted, 8@9c. Beeswax—None on hand. B. & R.

**KANSAS CITY, MO.**—Demand good, supply very light. White 1-lbs., 16c. Extracted, 8@7c. No beeswax on the market. H. & B.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**—The market is good. We quote: Fancy white clover 1-lbs. sell fast at 18c.; 2-lbs. 16@17c. Buckwheat, comb, 13@14c. Extracted, in barrels, 7@8c.; in 5 or 10 lb. kegs., 9@10c. J. A. S. & C.

**KANSAS CITY, MO.**—Receipts and stocks very light, demand good. We quote: No. 1 white 1-lbs. 16@17c.; No. 2, 14@15c.; No. 1 amber 1-lbs. 15c.; No. 2 amber, 10@12c. Extracted, white, 7@7½c.; amber, 5@6c. Beeswax—20@23c. C. M. C. C.

**ALBANY, N. Y.**—Our honey market is slow on account of cold weather, but our stock was never so light as now. We have less than 50 cases of honey on hand, and only one barrel of extracted; when usually we have 1,000 cases in stock. For honey not granulated in comb, we quote: White (small), 15@18c.; mixed 13@14c.; dark, 10@11c. Large comb and double glass sell for 1 to 2c. less per lb. Extracted, white, 8½@9c.; amber, 7½@8c.; buckwheat, 7@7½c. H. R. W.